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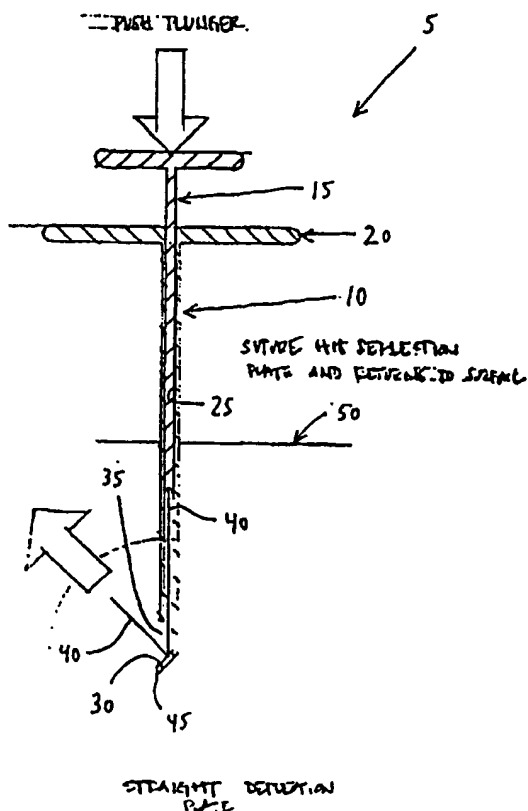
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- (71) Applicant: **ONUX MEDICAL, INC.** [US/US]: 5 Merrill Drive, Hampton, NH 03842 (US). (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
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- (72) Inventors: **SANCOFF, Gregory, E.**: 120 Mill Road, North Hampton, NH 03862 (US). **FIELD, Frederic, P.**: 5 Woodland Road, North Hampton, NH 03862 (US). For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PLACING SUTURE WIRES INTO TISSUE FOR THE APPROXIMATION AND TENSIONING OF TISSUE



(57) Abstract: A suture placer (10) for placing a length of suture wire (40) through tissue (50) such that the suture wire is directed into the tissue and then back out again.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :A61B 17/04

US CL :606/144, 148

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/144, 148

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,235,238 A (OGIU et al) 25 November 1980, see entire document.	1-6
A	US 4,669,473 A (RICHARDS et al) 02 June 1987, see entire document.	1-6
X/Y	US 5,507,754 A (GREEN et al) 16 APRIL 1996, see column 8.	1 & 3-6/2

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

GARY JACKSON

Telephone No. (703) 308-4302